



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Louisville High School Junior receives Energy and Environment Cabinet's Young Environmentalist Award** *Addison acts to increase awareness of pollution on Kentucky's waterways*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (March 22, 2012) – The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) has awarded its first Young Environmentalist Award to Matthew Addison, a junior at Louisville's Trinity High School.

Addison received the award today from State Rep. Tim Moore, of Elizabethtown, a member of the legislature's Natural Resources and Environment Committee, and EEC Secretary Len Peters during a ceremony at the Capitol.

The Secretary's Young Environmentalist Award recognizes young people who decide on their own to serve as environmental stewards.

"It's important that we recognize Kentucky's youth who are making a difference in our state," said EEC Sec. Peters. "If we are to protect and preserve our environment, we must reinforce the idea that environmental stewardship is everyone's responsibility."

"I am honored to help recognize Matthew for exhibiting true stewardship of our commonwealth," Rep. Moore said. "I applaud his determination to educate and motivate others to take pride in maintaining Kentucky's natural beauty."

Each summer for the past 10 years, Addison, his family and friends wade through a 2-mile stretch of the Little Barren River, picking discarded trash and tires and hauling them back to shore in john boats for disposal.

“This year we collected 38 tires, including four tractor tires, one washing machine, a television set and all sorts of smaller debris. These items were gathered on a portion of water that encompasses river frontage on seven different farms,” said Addison. “This marks the tenth straight year that we have cleaned up this body of water. During this time frame, we have collected more than 300 tires. Despite these good efforts, tires keep reappearing on the river.

“I am convinced that many of these tires are abandoned on the river by people who are unaware of the negative impact this causes on the aquatic ecosystem,” said Addison.

The Little Barren River is a scenic waterway that meanders through three counties in south central Kentucky and empties into the Green River. As such, it is considered part of the Green River Watershed.

If you know a young person who is making a difference on the environmental front, the Energy and Environment Cabinet would like to hear about it; phone the cabinet’s Office of Communications and Public Outreach at 502-564-5525.

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